Chapter 7
Formative Assessment Grant

Formative Assessment Grant Background

During the 2015 legislative session, the Indiana General Assembly passed Public Law 213-2105 (HEA 1001). A component of this law indicates that the formative assessment grant will be provided to public school corporations, charter schools and accredited nonpublic schools to fund formative tests to identify students that require remediation.

Prior to distribution to public school corporations, charter schools and accredited nonpublic schools, the grant amounts and formula shall be submitted to the State Board of Education and the State Budget Agency for review and approval, and the Indiana Department of Education shall provide a report to the State Budget Committee.

Formative Assessment Grant Application Process

School corporations, charter schools and accredited nonpublic schools interested in participating in the grant must submit a Request to Participate form by the Indiana Department of Education's deadline in late Summer.

Formative Assessment Grant Overview

It is the vision of the Indiana Department of Education that the formative test and subsequent use of data would be used for guiding classroom instruction at the individual student level, and that individualization will result in increased academic success and decreased need for remediation.

The adoption of the Indiana College- and Career-Ready Standards has brought to the forefront the need for shifting the focus from teaching and measuring skills in isolation to a focus on deeper learning and application of knowledge. This shift has also prompted a simultaneous conversation regarding formative assessment tools used in classrooms. Therefore, the Indiana Department of Education is pleased to provide an opportunity for local school decisions regarding formative assessment tools.

One goal for the use of formative assessment tools and subsequent student level data is to drive instructional foci for students at a holistic level. Students should be assessed on their ability to read and be proficient mathematicians. This ability should transcend summative assessment tools. Therefore, if a student is a strong reader and mathematician they should do well on any assessment.

The Indiana Formative Assessment Tests provided through this grant are targeted for students in grades K-10. Formative assessment for students in grades 11 and 12 are offered through the use of ACCUPLACER.

Formative Assessment Test Criteria

It is the expectation of the Indiana Department of Education that the formative assessment test(s) selected:

- Assesses English/Language Arts and/or Math

  e.g., Schools will determine, based on individual students' needs, the content areas that will be addressed using the formative assessment test(s)—English/Language Arts or Math, or both.

- Is an adaptive or fixed form formative assessment test

  e.g., Adaptive formative assessment test items presented to a student are selected as a result of student performance on previous items. Test items may span multiple grade levels, and the items are designed to identify students who are working on grade level, below grade level, or above grade level.

  Fixed form assessments present the same items to all students. Although fixed form test items are typically on-grade level, the assessment can include items from multiple grade levels.

- Provides diagnostic analysis of student performance

  e.g., The formative assessment test(s) will measure and report student progress.

- Provides timely student performance reports and analysis for teachers and parents

  e.g., The formative assessment test(s) are administered multiple times throughout the school year.

- Provides differentiated learning tools for educators, students and parents that support areas of instructional need

  e.g., The formative assessment test(s) include instructional tools and activities for students, as results are used to inform and support instruction.

NOTE:
For additional information, please access: http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/formative-assessment-grant.